

A LATE THIRD–FOURTH-CENTURY CE BURIAL CAVE ON REMEZ STREET, QIRYAT ATA

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A rock-cut chamber-tomb was excavated on 9 Remez Street, Qiryat Ata (map ref. NIG 21059/74582; OIG 16059/24582) following its chance discovery by a bulldozer during the construction of a shelter for the Gordon-Rogozin Secondary School (Fig. 1; Vitto 1974; Olami and Gal 2003:33*, No. 53).¹ The excavation revealed a burial cave consisting of a burial chamber (A) with six *kokhim* and an *arcosolium* hewn into its walls, containing pottery coffins, lamps, pottery and glass vessels, coins and various items of jewelry, all dating to the Late Roman period.

When excavation began, the sealing slab of the entrance was *in situ*; however, earth and rocks had penetrated the cave through

a breach (diam. 2 m) made in the ceiling by the bulldozer. Some disturbance and looting occurred before the arrival of the Regional Inspector of Antiquities, especially the removal of two of the pottery coffins originally placed in the *kokhim*, as well as some disturbance in *Arcosolium* 4. All the coffins were found filled with earth, their lids removed and very few bones and artifacts were inside, indicating that looting of their contents occurred in antiquity. The cave was entered through the breach in the ceiling of the cave; therefore, the slab sealing the entrance to the cave was only seen from inside. The area in front of the entrance could not be excavated for lack of time.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CAVE (Plan 1)

The entrance (1.05 m wide, 1 m high) to the cave is in the southeastern wall, sealed by a rectangular slab. A hewn step, 0.45 m high, descends from the entrance onto the southeastern shelf of Chamber A (Fig. 2). Chamber A is rectangular (2.4 × 3.5 m, height 1.7 m) with a vaulted ceiling and a rectangular central pit (1.5 × 2.3 m, 0.40–0.55 m deep), which creates 0.55–0.65 m wide shelves on four sides. An *arcosolium* (4) occupies the northwestern wall (Fig. 3), and six vaulted *kokhim* (Table 1) are hewn into the walls of the chamber—three (*Kokhim* 1–3) in the southwestern wall (Fig. 4) and three (*Kokhim* 5–7) in the northeastern wall (Fig. 5). Troughs are hewn into the floors of *Kokhim* 2, 3 and 7 and of *Arcosolium* 4. Pottery coffins had been placed in *Kokhim* 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, and on the northwestern shelf.

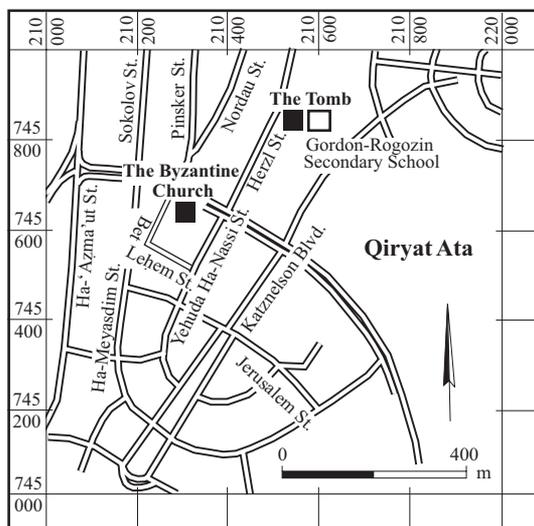
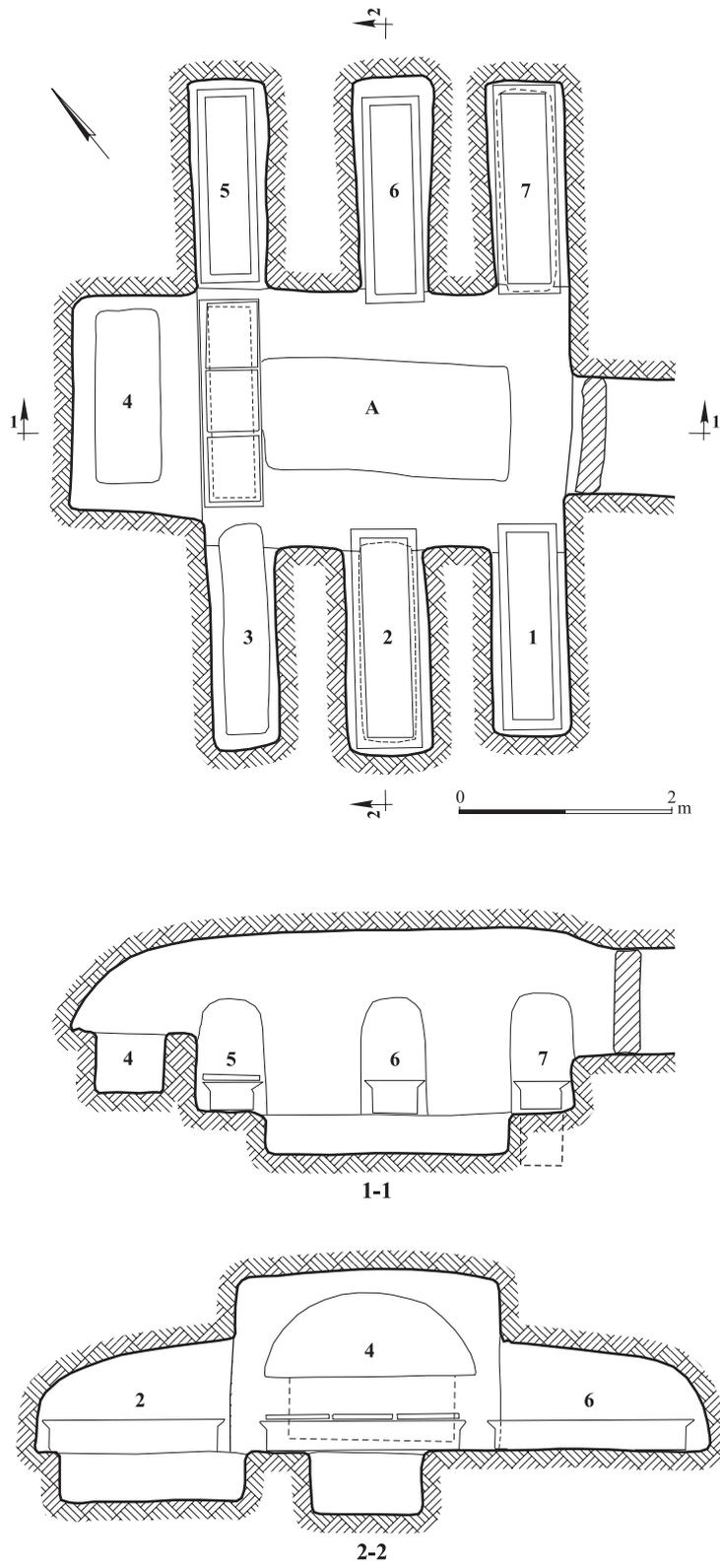


Fig. 1. Location map of the tomb and the church (see Vitto, this volume).



Plan 1. Plan and sections of the burial cave.



Fig. 2. Cave entrance (before excavation) with jar (Fig. 8:1) and lamps (Figs. 9:3–5; 10:1) *in situ* in the central pit, looking southeast.

None of the *kokhim* was found sealed, but two slabs, which apparently had originally blocked the *kokhim*, were found in the central pit. The absence of sealing slabs in the openings of the *kokhim* is obviously due to the fact that the length of the coffins exceeds that of the *kokhim* so that they protrude beyond their openings onto the shelves. The central pit of Chamber A was found almost entirely filled with light brown earth containing a few pottery and glass

Table 1. Dimensions of *Kokhim* and *Arcosolium* (in meters)

No.	L	W	H	Trough
1	1.70	0.65–0.75	1.05	-
2	1.95	0.75–0.85	1.05	0.5 × 1.8, depth 0.45
3	1.90	0.65	1.05	0.45 × 1.95, depth 0.45
4	2.00	1.30	0.80	0.6 × 1.6, depth 0.6
5	1.95	0.65–0.75	1.05	-
6	2.00	0.60–0.75	1.05	-
7	1.90	0.70–0.75	1.10	0.45 × 1.90, depth 0.5



Fig. 3. *Arcosolium* 4 and coffin on shelf, after excavation, looking northwest.



Fig. 4. *Kokh* 1 with coffin, and *Kokhim* 2 and 3, after excavation, looking southwest.



Fig. 5. *Kokhim* 5, 6 with coffins, and *Kokh* 7, after excavation, looking northeast.

fragments. On top of this layer of earth were several oil lamps, mainly in the area close to the entrance where the mourners had obviously left them before leaving the cave. An intact store

jar was found upside down in the eastern corner of the pit, and three other jars were discovered nearby (Fig. 2). Several entire cooking pots were also found in the pit.

THE POTTERY COFFINS

Six pottery coffins had originally been placed in the cave, one in each of *Kokhim* 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, and one on the northwestern shelf. Two coffins had been removed at the time the cave was discovered (but were retrieved afterwards) and the remaining four were found with their lids removed, filled with earth and mostly emptied of their contents. Originally, each coffin was covered with three *tegulae* and two *imbrices*. The coffin on the northwestern shelf of Chamber A still had two *tegulae in situ*. A few *tegulae* that had originally covered the other coffins were found broken and scattered in the cave. All the coffins are plain and roughly the same size (length 1.80–1.85 m, width 0.50–0.55 m, height 0.25–0.28 m).

THE FINDS (Table 2)

The finds consist of nine oil lamps; a relatively large number of pottery vessels, including cooking pots, jars, one jug and two juglets; glass ewers and kohl-containers; a few bone pins; various jewelry items, such as gold earrings, bronze and iron bracelets, bronze and iron finger-rings and a few glass and crystal beads. Four fairly worn bronze coins dating to the last quarter of the third century CE were found in *Arcosolium* 4 (see Bijovsky, below).

Pottery Vessels

All the pottery vessels were found in the central Chamber A.

Cooking Pots (Fig. 6:1–4).— The four cooking pots bear traces of soot, attesting to their having been used. These vessels are of two main types:

1) Three examples of this type were found with slight variations among them (Fig. 6:1–3). It is a large vessel (c. 19 cm high) made of a red gritty fabric with an orange tinge. This type has a short neck (rim diam. 12–13 cm), a wide globular body (diam. 21.5–24.0 cm), partly or entirely ribbed, a rounded base and two handles

from rim to shoulder. Variations among the three examples are as follows: Fig. 6:1 has a short concave neck, a thickened rim with a groove, an entirely ribbed body, an unribbed base and large loop handles; Fig. 6:2 has a thickened rim, a partly ribbed body and large loop handles; Fig. 6:3 has a short and straight neck, a plain rim with a flat tip, a body ribbed only in its lower part, a partly ribbed base and small loop handles. Their interior are all covered with a lime deposit, indicating that they had contained water over a long period. These cooking pots with very short necks belong to a type that is very common in the late third–fourth centuries CE in the Galilee. It is Type T10.6 b, c of Díez Fernández (1983), who dates it to the third–fourth centuries CE (but see Adan-Bayewitz 1993:147–149, n. 93 on this typology). It appears in a burial cave at ‘Ein Yabrud (Husseini 1938: Pl. 1:19) dated to the fourth century CE; Rama (Tzaferis 1980: Fig. 3:27–31); Meron (in Cisterns 2 and 3, the contents of which is attributed by Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981: Pls. 6.1, 6.2:1, 2 to Stratum IV—mid-third–mid-fourth centuries CE—and in Area MII.4: Pl. 8.14:8, 15–18 attributed to Stratum V—fourth century CE onward); Jalame Form 4 (Johnson 1988:189–192) dated to the fourth century CE (mainly the second half of that century); and Kefar Hananya Form 4C (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:128–130), dated to the second–mid-fourth centuries CE.

2) One example of Type 2, base missing, was found (Fig. 6:4). It has a higher neck than Type 1, slanting slightly inward with a grooved rim, a body ribbed along all its preserved part and large loop handles. It is roughly similar to the shape of Kefar Hananya Form 4E (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:132–135) dated to the early fourth–early fifth centuries CE, and to an example found in a burial cave at ‘Ein Yabrud (Husseini 1938: Pl. 1:18) dated to the fourth century CE.

Jug (Fig. 7:1).— One complete example was found. It is a small vessel (10.5 cm high) made of a red-brownish gritty fabric, well fired, with a concave neck (rim diam. 7.5 cm), a

Table 2. Contents of the Cave

Locus	Burial Furniture	Osteological Remains ²	Coins	Lamps	Pottery Vessels	Glass Vessels	Jewelry/Other	Remarks
Chamber A, central pit	On shelf, in front of <i>Arcosolium</i> 4, on a thin layer of earth: 1 pottery coffin (Reg. No. 23), slightly broken, with one <i>tegula</i> in situ (Fig. 3)	-	-	1 nozzle, 3rd c. (Fig. 9:1) 5 complete lamps, 4th c. (Figs. 9:3-5; 10:1, 2) 1 nozzle, 4th c. (Fig. 10:3)	2 complete jars (Fig. 8:1, 2) 1 fragmentary jar (Reg. No. 3) 4 cooking pots (Fig. 6:1-4) 1 complete jug (Fig. 7:1) 1 complete juglet (Fig. 7:2) 1 broken juglet/lamp-filler (Fig. 7:3)	1 glass kohl container, late 3rd-early 4th c. (Fig. 11:1) 1 glass bottle, upper part (Fig. 15:2)	1 bronze band (Fig. 17:1) 6 bronze bracelets (Fig. 17:7-11, 13) 1 iron bracelet, broken (Fig. 17:14) 1 bronze ring (Fig. 17:16)	A light brown earth filled most of the central pit. On top of this layer (Fig. 2): one upside down jar (Fig. 8:1) in the eastern corner, and two additional jars, two cooking pots and six 4th c. lamps. On shelf, in front of <i>Kokh</i> 2: one cooking pot (Fig. 6:2). On shelf, in front of <i>Kokh</i> 6: one cooking pot (Fig. 6:1) 3 bronze bracelets (Fig. 17:7, 8, 13)
<i>Kokh</i> 1	1 intact pottery coffin (Reg. No. 21); broken <i>tegulae</i> were found nearby on the floor of the <i>kokh</i> (Fig. 4)	a few brittle bones and teeth	-	-	-	-	In the coffin: 1 bone pin (Fig. 16:4) 1 iron bracelet (Fig. 17:15) 1 amphora-shaped glass bead (Fig. 18:1)	The <i>kokh</i> was filled with a layer of light brown earth (Th 0.4 m), which covered the coffin by c. 0.1 m; the coffin was full of earth
<i>Kokh</i> 2 (with trough)	1 pottery coffin laid on top of the trough, removed before excavation; a broken <i>tegula</i> was found on top of the earth layer in the trough	A few bones	-	In trough: 1 nozzle, late 3rd-early 4th c. (Fig. 9:2)	-	-	-	Sealing slab found in central pit, in front of entrance to the <i>kokh</i> . A layer of light brown earth (Th 0.2 m) in the trough

Table 2. (Cont.)

Locus	Burial Furniture	Osteological Remains ²	Coins	Lamps	Pottery Vessels	Glass Vessels	Jewelry/Other	Remarks
<i>Kokh</i> 3 (with trough)	-	-	-	-	-	In trough: 1 glass double kohl tube container, late 4th c. (Fig. 11:2) 4 glass ewers, late 4th c. (Figs. 12–14, 15:1)	-	Sealing slab found lying in the <i>kokh</i> . A layer of dark brown earth (Th 0.3–0.4 m) in the <i>kokh</i> , which had penetrated through the breach
<i>Arcosolium</i> 4 (with trough)	-	Large quantity of bones and teeth (from several skeletons, partly articulated)	1 Æ coin Aurelian 270– 275 CE (Cat. No. 1) 1 Æ coin Carinus 282–283 CE (Cat. No. 2) 2 Æ coins end 3rd c. CE (Cat. Nos. 3, 4)	1 lamp fragment (Reg. No. 66)	-	-	1 bronze rod (Fig. 6:1) 2 bone pins (Fig. 16:2, 3) 4 pairs of gold earrings (Fig. 17:2–5) 1 bronze bell (Fig. 17:6) 1 bronze bracelet (Fig. 17:12) 1 glass and 1 crystal beads (Fig. 18:2, 3)	Trough half-filled with earth, evidence of looting
<i>Kokh</i> 5	1 pottery coffin removed before excavation	-	-	-	-	-	-	A layer of dark brown earth (Th 0.2 m) in the <i>kokh</i> , which had penetrated at the time of discovery of the cave through the breach in the ceiling
<i>Kokh</i> 6 (with trough)	1 intact pottery coffin (Reg. No. 22), no lid (Fig. 5)	In coffin: many brittle bones	-	-	-	-	In coffin: 1 iron finger-ring (Fig. 17:17) 1 glass bead (Fig. 18:4)	Coffin, full of earth, on the ledges of the trough
<i>Kokh</i> 7 (with trough)	1 pottery coffin	In trough: a few bones	-	-	-	-	-	A layer of earth (Th 0.5 m) covering the coffin

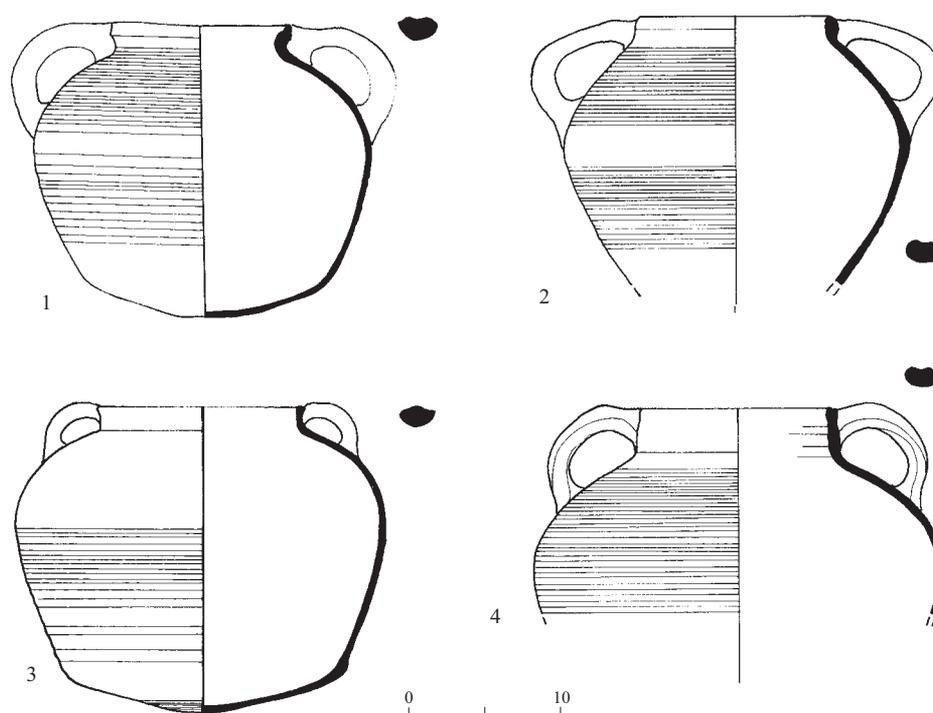


Fig. 6. Cooking pots.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	4	74-2192	Chamber A, in front of <i>Kokh 6</i>	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric with orange tinge, gritty	H 19, D rim 12, D body max. 21.5
2	6	-	Chamber A	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric with orange tinge, small white and gray grits	D rim 13, D body max. 22.5
3	5	74-2193	Chamber A, in front of <i>Kokh 2</i>	As No. 2	H 19.6, D rim 13, D body max. 24
4	7	-	Chamber A	As No. 2	D rim 13, D body max. 27

thickened rim with a rounded tip, a globular, entirely ribbed body, and a rounded unribbed base. Though its ware and shape are those of a cooking vessel, its single handle and the absence of traces of soot indicate that it served as a jug. A similar vessel was found in a cistern at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:301–302, Fig. 70:8).

Juglet (Fig. 7:2).— One almost complete example was found. It is a piriform juglet made

of a red gritty fabric with a concave neck, a folded-in rim, an entirely ribbed piriform body, a flat base and a handle from rim to mid-body. Pottery juglets are quite rare in tombs. As this example was found in the central pit of Chamber A next to jars, it may have served as a dipper-juglet.

Juglet/Lamp-Filler (Fig. 7:3).— A fragment of a mold-made juglet made of a well-levigated, pale brown, poorly fired, fabric was found.



Fig. 7. Jug and juglets.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	46	74-2196	Chamber A, central pit	Reddish yellow fabric 7.5 YR 7/8, very small red and gray grits, well-fired	H 10.5, D rim 7, D body max. 11
2	25	-	Chamber A	Red fabric 10R 5/6, many small black grits	H 9.2, D rim 3.5, D body max. 5
3	8	74-2223	Chamber A	Very pale brown 10YR 8/3 fabric, well-levigated, badly fired	D rim 3.5

The wall is fairly thick (0.5 cm) and the neck is slightly concave with three horizontal ridges. The handle, which stretches from mid-neck to shoulder, is oval and ribbed. A spout is attached to the upper part of the body, and to its right is a decoration of a branch in relief. A few similar juglets, but with different decorations, are known both from excavations in the Galilee and at Gezer, as well as from collections. They are c. 10 cm high, with a high disc base, an ovoid-shaped body (max. diam. 5.5–7.0 cm)

and are often identified as lamp-fillers. Two examples are exhibited at the Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem (*PAM Gallery Book III*:104, Nos. 1794, 1795), one (No. 1794), from Gezer, decorated with a human face, and another (No. 1795) from a tomb at Shefar'am, with a geometric decor. In Nazareth, two examples, one fragmentary and one complete with a geometric decor, were found in Cistern 51 (Bagatti 1969:277–279, Figs. 220:1; 221; Pl. 5:3). At Ḥorbat Qastra, three examples were

found in Burial Cave No. 10, which was in use from the fourth to the early seventh centuries CE (*Castra* 1999:24; Gérald Finkielsztejn, pers. comm.). An example decorated with a human face is in the Schloessinger collection (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:168, No. 694), with references to two additional examples kept at the Israel Museum, purchased at the American Colony Store in Jerusalem. These mold-made decorated juglets are somewhat reminiscent of the oil lamps and figurines found in two cisterns at Bet Naṭṭif (Baramki 1936), which are usually dated to the late third–fourth centuries CE. The other finds from the cave at Qiryat Ata show that such a dating would fit the juglet.

Jars (Fig. 8:1, 2).— Three jars, two complete and one fragmentary, were found in the central pit of Chamber A. They belong to the common light-red, bag-shaped type, c. 46 cm high, with a straight medium-high neck (rim diam. c. 10 cm), a thickened rim, a globular, entirely ribbed body (diam. 32–36 cm), a slightly flattened base and two small ring-handles on the shoulders. There are two variants:

1) Figure 8:1 was found upside down in the eastern corner of the central pit (Fig. 2). It has a pronounced ridge at the base of the neck and no ridge at the junction between the shoulder and the body. In addition, it has a small circular hole (diam. 4 mm), pierced from outside after firing, 4 cm beneath the base of the neck, which suggests that the jar was used to store wine. A number of explanations have been proposed for the presence of a hole in

the upper part of jars. It has been suggested that this hole was a vent pierced to release carbon dioxide pressure building up inside the jar during the fermentation process of wine (Zevulun and Olenik 1979:27*, Figs. 103–105). Another theory is that the hole was drilled after the jar had been filled with wine so a pipette could be inserted to verify the quality of the contents without removing the stopper (Vogt et al. 2002:68–69). Whatever the explanation, this hole suggests that at some point this jar contained wine, either when it was placed into the cave or beforehand, and was then reused in the cave, filled with another liquid (olive oil or water). It should, however, be noted that unlike the cooking pots (see above), the interiors of the jars bear no traces of lime, but rather a dark layer up to the shoulder, which might be residue from wine.

2) Figure 8:2 has a slight ridge at the base of the neck and a pronounced ridge at the junction between the shoulder and the body. Another similar jar was found, neck missing (not illustrated; Reg. No. 3).

This type of jar is common in Galilee in the Late Roman period. Díez Fernández (1983: Type 1.10) dates it from the late second to the fourth centuries CE. It appears among the jars discovered in Room F of the Patrician House at Meron (Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981: 60–69, especially Fig. 3.25 D), which is attributed to Stratum IV (250–365 CE). It also resembles some of the bag-shaped jars from Jalame, which Johnson (1988:214–219) suggests dating to the third–fifth centuries CE.

Fig. 8 ▶

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	1	74-2194	Chamber A, eastern corner of pit	Red to light red fabric 2.5 YR 5/8–6/8, small gray and red grits	H 46, D rim 10.3, D body max. 34.5
2	2 (+7)	74-2195	Chamber A, in pit near entrance	Red to light red fabric 2.5 YR 5/8–6/8, medium and small gray and red grits	H 45.6, D rim 10, D body max. 36

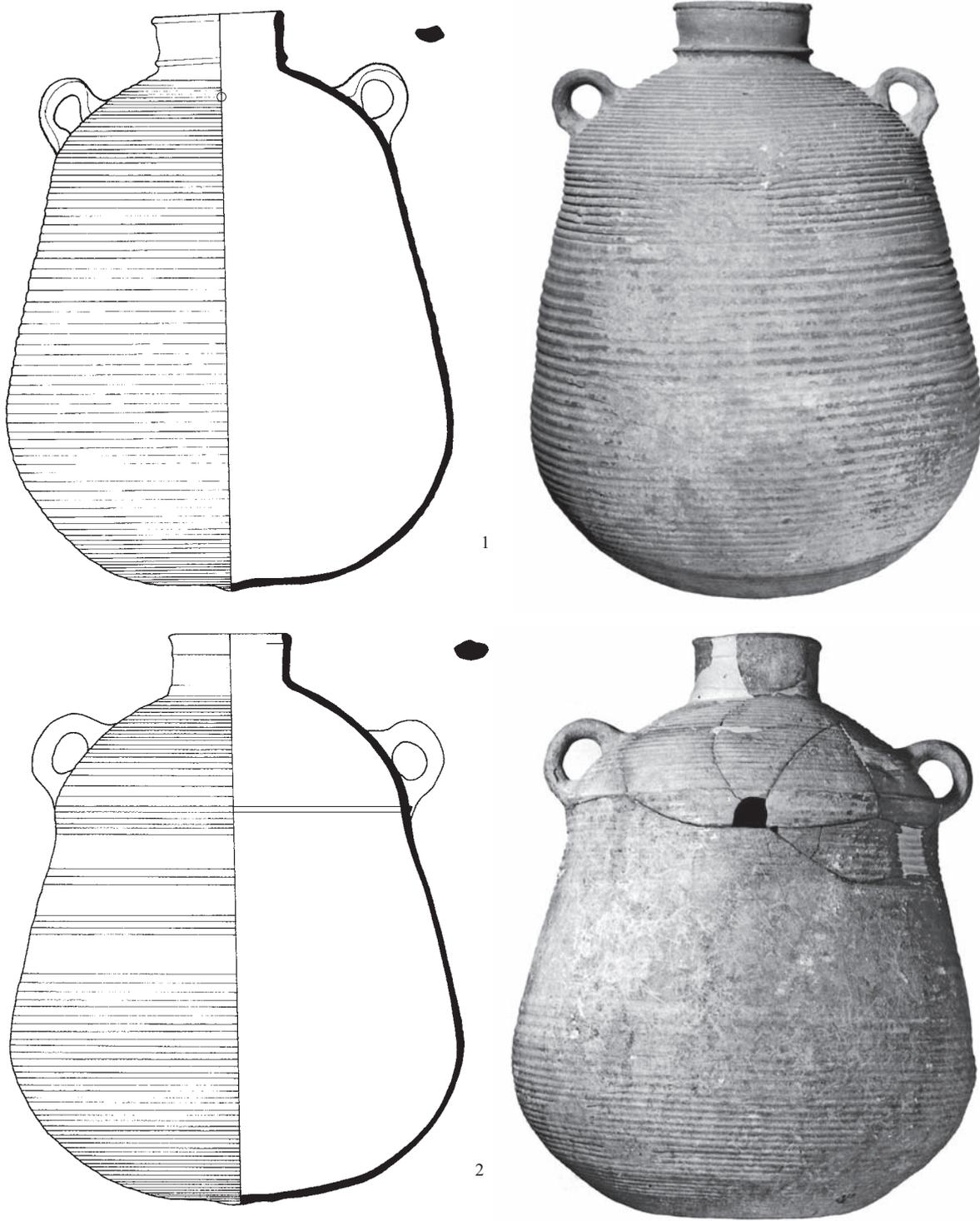


Fig. 8. Jars.

Oil Lamps

Five complete and four fragmentary pottery oil lamps were discovered in the cave, seven of which were clustered in the southwestern part of the central pit of Chamber A, near the cave entrance. One of the fragmentary lamps was found in *Kokh* 2 and another in *Arcosolium* 4. They all have traces of soot, attesting to their having been used. The lamps fall into four types, following Sussman 1989.

Northern Stamped Lamp, Sussman Type 1 (Fig. 9:1).— Nozzle of a round lamp found in the southwestern part of the central pit of Chamber A, near the entrance. It is elongated with a horizontal line incised beneath the wick-hole, and below, a vertical groove bifurcating at its end. Sussman (1989:25–26) calls this type of lamp the “geometric straight line style”, which derives from the Italian Factory Lamp—the prototype of the northern stamped lamps. Lamps of this type (Israeli and Avida 1988:113, 189, No. 324) are found mostly in the Galilee, e.g., at Gush Ḥalav (Makhoully 1939: Pl. 30d); Bet She‘arim (Avigad 1976:186–187, Pl. 70:9–10, dated to the third century CE); Ḥanita (Barag 1978:35–37, Fig. 16:74–78, Type 2 dated to the third century CE); and Nahariyya (Sussman 1989:25–26, Type 1: Nos. 3, 5), but also occasionally on sites in the south of the country, e.g., Tel Ḥalif/Lahav (Gophna and Sussman 1974:72–74, Fig. 4:9, in a burial cave dated to the second–mid-third centuries CE). *Suggested Date*: third century CE.

Northern Stamped Lamp, Sussman Type 4 (Fig. 9:2).— Nozzle of an oval lamp found in the trough of *Kokh* 2, beneath a pottery coffin. It is rounded with an incised horizontal line beneath the wick hole, ending in small circles (degenerated double volute) and an hourglass-shaped pattern, which, according to Sussman (1989:29–31), is a degeneration of two opposing curved volutes. This type of lamp is common along the Phoenician coast and all over Galilee, e.g., at Bet She‘arim (Avigad 1976: Pl. 70:4, 16–18); Ḥanita (Barag

1978:37–40, Type 3, dated late third–early fourth centuries CE); and Bet She‘an (Hadad 2002:23–24, Type 14, No. 46, found with a coin of Constantine the Great, 307–337 CE, and dated to the first half of the fourth century CE). *Suggested Date*: late third–early fourth centuries CE.

Northern Stamped Lamps, Sussman Types 6D, 6E (Fig. 9:3–5).— Three complete examples of this type were found in the southwestern part of Chamber A, near the entrance. They consist of piriform mold-made lamps made of a poorly fired reddish-yellow fabric, with a flat base, a small pointed handle continuing a sunken oval disc and a small circular filling hole. They are decorated with stamped motifs consisting of small circles, concentric circles and palmettes, with the same motif covering the entire lamp and reaching as far as the wick hole. The base is stamped with a row of rosettes or a palm frond.

Each of the three lamps is decorated differently. Figure 9:3 has large concentric circles on the shoulders and smaller ones on the disc. Its base is stamped with a row of three rosettes. Figure 9:4 is decorated with palmettes on the shoulder and the nozzle. Its base is stamped with a palm frond flanked by a rosette at each extremity. The decoration of Fig. 9:5 is almost invisible, probably due to a worn mold. It apparently consists of small circles on the shoulders, disc and nozzle. The handle is grooved, flanked by oblique strokes. The base is stamped with a row of rosettes. Lamps of this type (Díez Fernández 1983: Type L14; Sussman 1989:41–44, Types 6D and 6E) are sometimes called Bet She‘arim lamps because many were discovered in the catacombs there (Mazar 1973:213–218). They are very common in the Galilee and South Lebanon, e.g., at Gush Ḥalav (Makhoully 1939: Pl. 30:1a; Meyers, Meyers and Strange 1990:160–161, No. 16); Ḥorbat Shema‘ (Meyers, Kraabel and Strange 1976: Pl. 8.10:6); Meron (Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981: Pl. 9.19:11); Meṭulla (Tzaferis 1982: Fig. 3:2); Ha-Gosherim (Sussman 1989:41–43, 56,

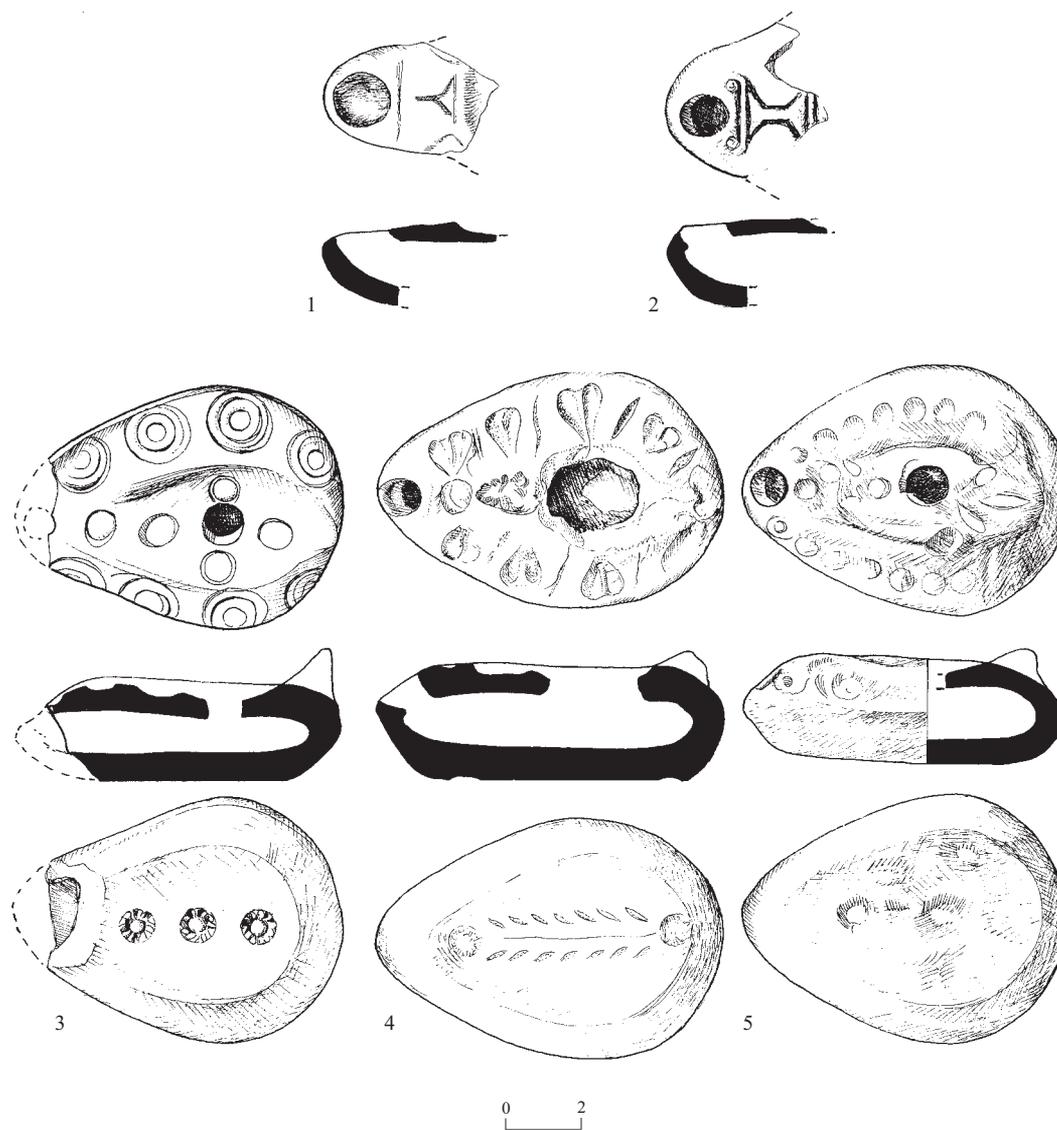


Fig. 9. Oil lamps.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	14	-	Chamber A	-	H 2.2
2	27	-	<i>Kokh 2</i>	-	H 2.3
3	9	74-2199	Chamber A	Reddish-yellow 5YR 7/6 fabric, many white grits	L 8.7, W 6.4, H 2.6
4	12	74-2198	Chamber A	Reddish-yellow 5YR 7/8 fabric, white and red grits	L 9, W 6.3, H 3
5	11	74-2200	Chamber A	Reddish-yellow 5YR 7/6 fabric, white and red grits, blackened by fire	L 8.5, W 6.6, H 2.8

Nos. 47–50); Nahariyya (Sussman 1989:41–44, Types 6D and 6E); and Khirbat esh-Shubeika (Tatcher 2002:266–267, Figs. 1–3, in Cave 2 dated by finds to the fourth century CE). *Date*: Barag (1970:65) and Avigad (1976:188–189) date them to the fourth–fifth centuries CE. Sussman (1989:24) suggests a slightly longer time span, from the fourth to the sixth centuries CE. At Qiryat Ata, they were apparently placed in the cave in the fourth century CE.

Round Lamp with Bow-Shaped Nozzle (Fig. 10).— Two complete examples and one nozzle of this type were found in the southwestern part of Chamber A, near the entrance. They have a round body, a flat base, a large filling hole surrounded by a grooved ridge, and a bow-shaped nozzle bordered by a ridge, which follows the shape of the nozzle and encloses two opposed curved ridges. The nozzle is either plain or decorated with triangles. The shoulder of the two complete lamps (Fig. 10:1, 2) is

decorated with the same egg-and-dart motif in relief. Figure 10:1 is made of an orange-light brown fabric with a red slip, and has an undecorated nozzle and a high, tongue-shaped handle decorated with a palm frond.

Figure 10:2, made of light brown-pinkish fabric with a red slip, is slightly smaller than Fig. 10:1. Its handle is missing. Only the nozzle of Fig. 10:3, which is decorated with two enclosed triangles, is preserved.

These three lamps belong to a group of lamps (some of which have a decorated disc) that Sussman (2001:66–67, Fig. 23) calls ‘Caesarea lamps’ after the site where many were discovered. They are found mainly in the Galilee, South Lebanon, Bet She’an and Pella. In Bet She’an they correspond to Type 22 of Hadad (2002:56–61, especially Nos. 257–258 decorated with an ovolo on the shoulder, albeit with a knob instead of a tongue-shaped handle). Note that at Bet She’an, tongue-shaped handles decorated with a palm frond are found on lamps

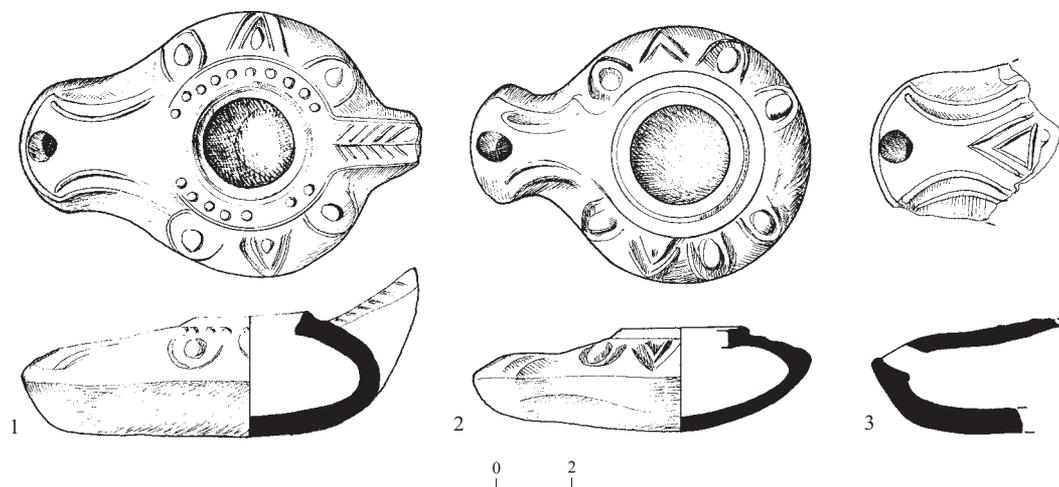


Fig. 10. Oil lamps.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	10	74-2197	Chamber A	Reddish-yellow 7.5YR 7/6 fabric, white grits, red slip 7.5R 5/8	L 10.6, W 7, H 3
2	40	74-2201	Chamber A	Pink 7.5YR 8/4 fabric, white and red grits, red slip 10R 6/8	L 9, W 6.5, H 2.8
3	13	-	Chamber A	Reddish-yellow 7.5YR 7/6 fabric, red slip 7.5R 5/8	H 3

classified by Hadad as Type 21, which slightly differ from Type 22. At Bet She'arim, 280 lamps of this type were found in a pit in Catacomb 24, which Mazar (1973:213–218, Fig. 23:3; see also Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:126, No. 519) suggested dating to the third–fourth centuries CE. This date, clearly too early, was revised by Elgavish (1962:215) and Avigad (1976:190, Pl. 71:32) to the second half of the sixth century CE. Elgavish's date, however, was based on coins found in another pit, which have no connection with these lamps. A more secure dating is provided by lamps of this type found in other excavations, e.g., at Gush Ḥalav (Makhoully 1939: Pl. 30:1b, c, dated fourth–fifth centuries CE); Silet edh-Dhahr near Samaria (Sellers and Baramki 1953:40, Fig. 41:63, Type VIII, dated to the fourth or early fifth century CE); Pella (Smith 1973:218–220, Pl. 63:186, dated to the fourth–sixth centuries CE); Jalame (Manzoni Macdonnell 1988:132–133, Fig. 6-6: 86, in a context dated to the second half of the fourth century CE); and Ḥammāt Gader (Coen Uzzieli 1997:324, Pl. III:4, dated to the fourth century CE). At Bet She'an, Zori (1966: Pl. 9B, upper left) found a few examples in the House of Kyrios Leontis, which he dated to the third–fourth centuries CE. Hadad (2002:61) suggested revising this date to the fifth–early sixth centuries CE, on the basis of several lamps discovered during the Hebrew University excavations at Bet She'an. At Qiryat Ata, these lamps were very likely placed in the cave in the fourth century CE, i.e., roughly at the same time as the three northern stamped lamps (Types 6D, 6E; Sussman 1989).

Glass Vessels

A relatively large number of glass vessels were discovered in the burial cave, mostly in *Kokh 3* and in the central Chamber A. They consist of two kohl containers, four tall jugs (ewers) with a funnel-shaped mouth, and a bottle.

Kohl Containers (Fig. 11).— A group of glass vessels, which are very common in the country during the Late Roman–Byzantine periods,

mostly in tombs, are usually called 'kohl containers' after the *govta de kohla* mentioned in BT *Berakhot* 18:2 (גובתא דכוהלא), and because traces of kohl (galena: a lead sulphide) were discovered in some of them—e.g., in Tomb 200 at Giv'at Sharet near Bet Shemesh (Seligman, Zias and Stark 1996:58, 61, n. 3, dated fourth century CE) and at Pella (O'Hea 2000:219–220). They first appear around the mid-third century CE, developing into a number of types, two of which were found in the Qiryat Ata tomb.

1) Figure 11:1 is a container made of a light bluish glass, found in the central pit of Chamber A. It consists of a single tube with a tubular rim folded inward, a funnel mouth, an elongated body swelling in its lower part, which stands on a high pushed-in ring base with a pontil mark. A trail of the same color is applied in a zigzag pattern from the rim to the upper part of the body and wound spirally once below. This is the earliest type of so-called kohl containers, which appears in the mid-third century CE and continues in use until the early fourth century CE. For parallels, differing in small details, see Megiddo, Tomb 1269 (Barag 1970:157, Pl. 35: Type 7:6) dated mid-third–early fourth century CE; Pella, Tomb 6, Grave 2 (Smith 1973:216, Pl. 65:25) dated mid-third–fourth centuries CE; and Tel Ḥalif, in a burial tomb (Gophna and Sussman 1974: Pl. 24:4) dated second–third centuries CE. A similar vessel without trail decoration was discovered in a "cache" at Bet She'arim (Catacomb 12, Hall A, Room VI) together with northern stamped lamps (Sussman 1989: Types 1, 4) and dated by Barag (1976:199, 202, Fig. 97:26, Pl. 68:4) to the third–early fourth centuries CE. At Ḥorbat Qaṣtra (*Castra* 1999:58; Natalia Katsnelson, pers. comm.), a very similar vessel was found in Tomb 12 together with second–third centuries CE glass vessels (including a deep glass bowl, a tall candlestick bottle and an open-work juglet bead). The Qiryat Ata vessel found in Chamber A very likely originated in one of the early burials of the cave, perhaps in *Arcosolium* 4, where coins of the last quarter



Fig. 11. Glass kohl containers.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	48	74-2202	Chamber A, in central pit	Single kohl tube on base	Light bluish glass	H 11.7, D rim. 4.4, D base 4.7
2	49	74-2207	<i>Kokh</i> 3	Double kohl tube	Light greenish glass	H 10.5, D rim of each tube 2

of the third century CE were discovered (see Bijovsky, below).

2) Figure 11:2, found in *Kokh* 3, is made of a light greenish glass. It consists of two cylindrical tubes with a tubular rim folded inward and a flat base. Two trails applied in loops run up the sides from the lower part of the body to the rim, where they were linked by a basket handle (now missing). Containers of this type, with one or several tubes, appear in the beginning or middle of the fourth century CE (Harden 1936:270 [g]; Barag 1970:175; 1976:201). For parallels of this type, see Capernaum (Bagatti 1963–64: Fig. 6); Ma'oz Hayim, in a tomb (Vitto 1977; a similar vessel but with thread decoration) dated to the fourth century CE; a variant in the mausoleum at Kh. Sabiya/Kefar Sava (Ayalon 1994: Fig. 5:8, Fig. 6) dated third/fourth–fifth centuries CE; and a

very similar vessel at Horbat Qastra (*Castra* 1999:59; Natalia Katsnelson, pers. comm.) in Tomb 16 found together with additional glass vessels dating to the fourth century CE. At Cabul, a vessel consisting of one tube decorated with four trails applied in loops on the sides and a thin trail around the body was found in a burial cave, dated to the second half of the fourth century CE (Vitto, forthcoming[b]). *Suggested Date*: second half of the fourth century CE.

Ewers/Tall Jugs (Figs. 12–14; 15:1).— Four tall jugs made of a light greenish-blue and bluish-green glass were discovered in the burial cave, all in *Kokh* 3. They fall into two main types:

1) Three examples of this type were found (Figs. 12–14), consisting of a tall jug (c. 32 cm high), with a rim folded inward, a funnel-shaped

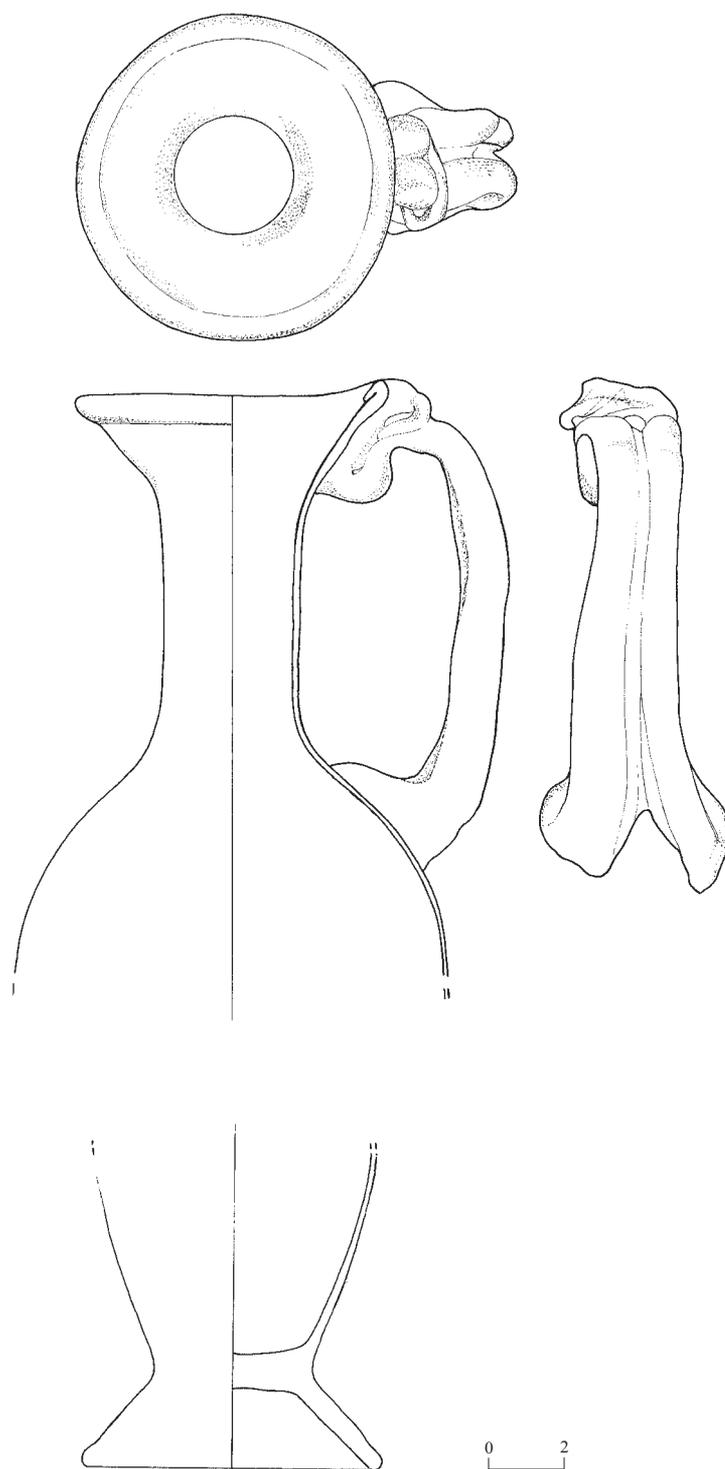


Fig. 12. Glass ewer.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	51+68	74-2204	<i>Kokh</i> 3	Light bluish-green glass	H c. 35, D rim 8, D body max. c. 11, D base 7.8

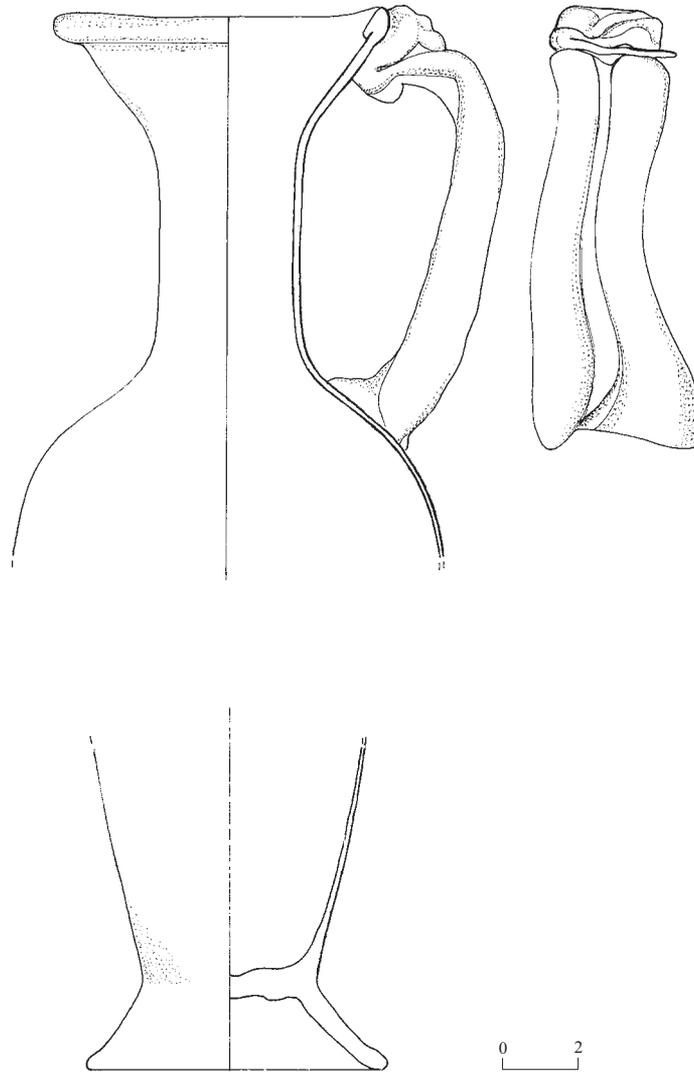


Fig. 13. Glass ewer.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	52+69	74-2203	<i>Kokh 3</i>	Light greenish-blue glass	H c. 37, D rim 9, D body max. 11, D base 8

mouth (rim diam. 8–9 cm), a high cylindrical neck, an elongated ovoid body (max. diam. 11.2 cm), a high massive pad-base (diam. c. 7.8 cm) and a strap pseudo-bifid handle, drawn from the shoulder to the rim where it is double-folded. Figure 14 has a thick coil of the same color wound horizontally at the junction between the funnel-shaped mouth and the neck.

2) Figure 15:1, found in Chamber A, is slightly smaller than Type 1. It has a high pushed-in ring base (instead of a pad-base) and is decorated with a thick coil wound horizontally at mid-height of the mouth and a thin trail wound spirally around the neck.

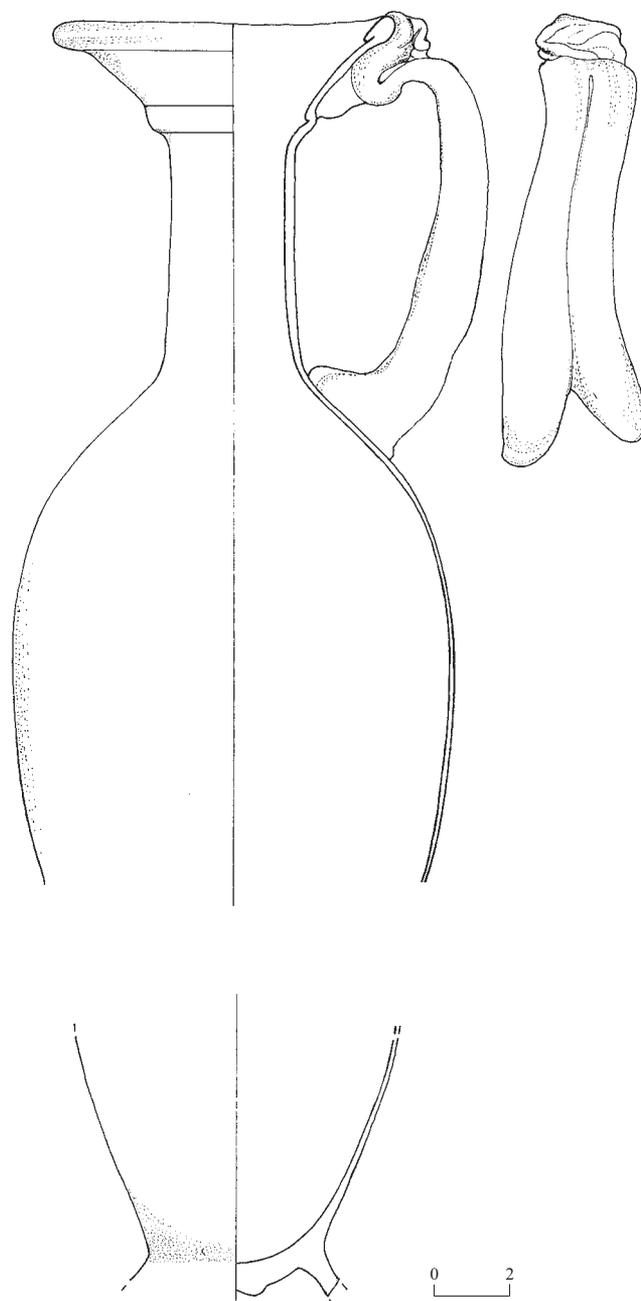


Fig. 14. Glass ewer.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	15-1 + 70	74-2205	<i>Kokh</i> 3	Light greenish-blue glass	H c. 37, D rim 9, D body max. 11.4

The manufacture of these jugs clearly shows that they were produced in the Eastern Mediterranean (Western Galilee or South

Lebanon). They correspond to Barag (1970) Type 8:16, 20, dated to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE. A complete jug, slightly

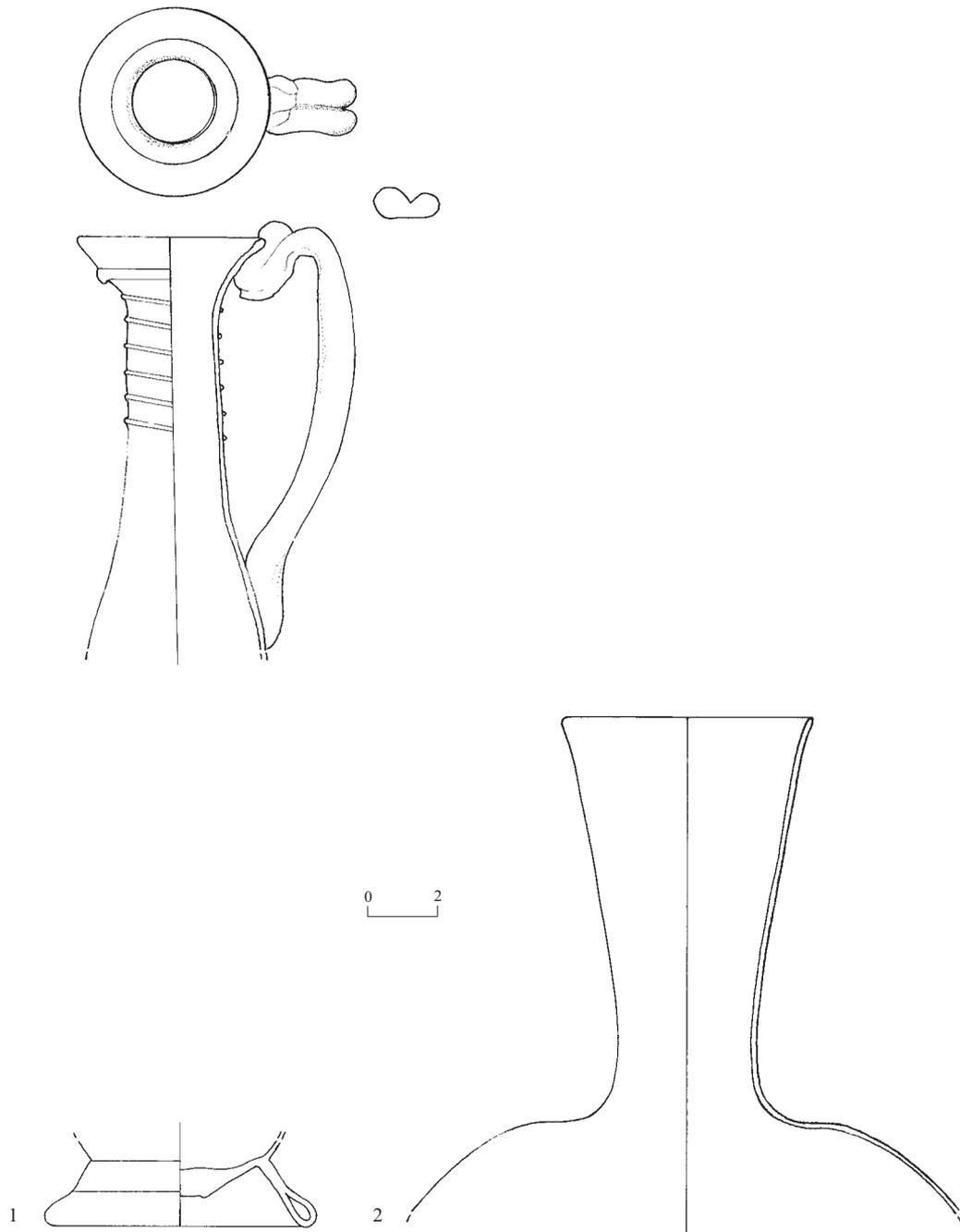


Fig. 15. Glass ewer and bottle.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	15-2 +50	<i>Kokh</i> 3	Ewer	Light bluish-green glass with white core in base, handle light greenish-blue	H c. 27, D rim 6.3, D base 7.8
2	19	Chamber A	Bottle	Light greenish glass	D rim 7, D body max. \geq 15.5

deformed, of similar dimensions and shape as our Type 2, with a trail decoration on the neck and a high pushed-in ring base, was found at Bet She'arim, Catacomb 15, Hall B, Room 1, which Barag (1976:206–207, Fig. 98:10, Pl. 68:1) suggests dating to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE. At Ḥorbat Qastra (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 1999:38, Fig. 51, left), a few jugs of a similar type, but with longer handles, were found in Tomb 10, in use from the fourth to the early seventh centuries CE. Another similar jug (height 32 cm) was found at Ḥelez in the Northern Negev, which Piccirillo and Israeli (2000:84, 217) suggest dating to the fourth–fifth centuries CE. The shape of these jugs was borrowed by the glassmakers from contemporary silver ewers, e.g., the set of fourth-century CE silver ewers of the Sevso Treasure (Mango 1990: Fig. 8; Mango and Bennett 1994:240–318, Figs. 6-1; 7-1). Similar glass jugs, with decoration on their body, were also manufactured in Syria-Palestine, e.g., a jug with diagonal ribbing decoration on the body discovered in a burial cave at Kafr Dikhrin, which Rahmani (1964:53–54, Fig. 2:7) dates to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE, and two glass jugs decorated with pinched ribs of unknown provenance kept at the Israel Museum, which Barag (1983) dates to the fourth century CE. Variants of this type of glass jug with strap handles, double folded at the rim, are the smaller jugs found in fourth-century CE burial caves at el-Baṣṣa (Ilfie 1934b: Fig. 18) and Kisra (Stern 1997:111–112, Fig. 5:22). *Suggested Date:* mid-fourth–early fifth centuries CE.

Glass Bottle (Fig. 15:2).— The upper part of a large globular bottle with a broad flaring neck and a rounded rim was found in Chamber A. Bottles of similar shape, but with a few variants in the decoration (e.g., trail decoration around the neck, vertical ribs on body), were found at Ḥuqoq, Tomb IV (Kahane 1961:127, 141, Fig. 4:3, Pl. 19:7) dated third–fourth centuries CE; Bet She'arim, in Catacombs 13–15 (Barag 1976:203–204, Nos. 31–

34, Fig. 98:1, 2, 6, 7) dated third–fourth centuries CE; and Ḥanita (Barag 1978:26, Fig. 13:54) dated third–fourth centuries CE. *Suggested Date:* fourth century CE (based on the date of the other finds from the cave).

Personal Objects

Bronze Rod (Fig. 16:1).— Found in *Arcosolium* 4, it has an elongated olivary tip at one extremity and three grooves incised beneath the other, broken, end. Similar rods were found in several Late Roman–early Byzantine tombs in the Near East, e.g., at Karm al-Shaikh, Jerusalem, on the grounds of the Rockefeller Museum (Baramki 1931a: Pl. IX:9), Jebel Jofeh, Amman (Harding 1950:89, Pl. 28:269), and at Kisra (Stern 1997:127, Fig. 15:77). Such rods are known to have been employed by physicians for the application of semi-solid medicaments (Rimon 1996:64*, Fig. 2: leftmost), though most of those discovered in tombs seem to have been used as cosmetic tools, especially when they are found in or near glass kohl containers. As to bronze rods that are not found together with kohl containers, some of them may have served as hair pins, as suggested by the bronze pins discovered on the skulls of women in the fourth-century CE cemetery at Colchester, England (Crummy 1983:30–31, Fig. 31).

Bone Pins (Fig. 16:2–4).— Three fragmentary bone pins were recovered in *Arcosolium* 4 and *Kokh* 1. There are two variants. Two examples (Fig. 16:2, 3) from *Arcosolium* 4 have an ovoid head ending in an upside down trapeze with a tiny hole at the top suggesting that it was topped by an additional piece. They are decorated with hatched grooves on the head and three horizontal grooves around the shaft. A bone pin with a similar hatched pattern was found in a rock-cut shaft grave in Jerusalem, at the site of the Rockefeller Museum (Baramki 1931a: Pl. 9:3). Figure 16:4, found in *Kokh* 1, has an elongated head and is undecorated.

Bone pins are common in Late Roman tombs, e.g., at Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:457–461, Fig. 459:9–40); Ḥanita (Barag 1978:44),

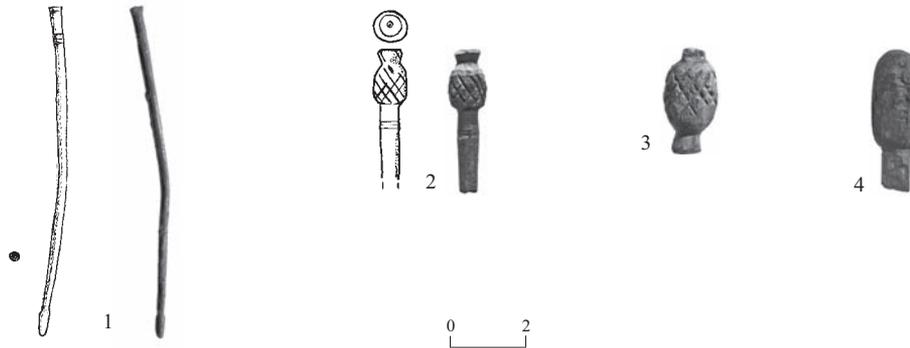


Fig. 16. Bronze rod and bone pins.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	59	-	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Bronze	Pres. L 9, D shaft 0.2
2	62	74-2226	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Bone	Pres. L 3.5, D shaft 0.5
3	61	74-2227	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Bone	Pres. L 2, D shaft 0.4
4	35	-	<i>Kokh</i> 1	Bone	Pres. L 2.1, D shaft 0.3

Nahf (Sussman 1982: Pl. 8:12), Metulla (Tzaferis 1982: Pl. 7:4), Asherat (Smithline 1997:54–55, Fig. 12:5), Kabri (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:18–19, Fig. 10:5), Elqosh (Vitto 2008:122, Fig. 2:5) and Iqrit (Vitto, forthcoming[a]). Several hypotheses have been put forward concerning their use. It has been suggested they were garment pins (Ayalon and Sorek 1999:42); however, most are probably too thick for such a use and would have damaged the cloth. Another hypothesis is that they served as kohl applicators (Barag 1978:44; Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997: 18–19); however, they never seem to bear any trace of color left by the kohl, and, moreover, when sticks are found inside kohl tubes, they are made of bronze and not of bone. A third theory, which probably applies to most of the bone pins discovered in Late Roman tombs, is that they were used as hair pins. This is suggested by the discovery of several such pins on or near the skulls of women buried in a fourth-century CE cemetery at Colchester, England (Crummy 1983:19–25) and by the representation of a bone pin stuck through hair on top of the head on a second-century CE encaustic portrait of a woman from Hawara, Egypt (Croom 2002:105, Pl. 14).

Jewelry

A rich repertoire of jewelry was found, including gold earrings, bronze and iron bracelets, bronze and iron rings, and a few glass and crystal beads.

Bronze Band (Fig. 17:1).— Found in the central pit of Chamber A, this item is a flat, open-ended band, decorated with alternating notches creating a zigzag design, with a small hole (diam. 0.2 cm) at each extremity. The function of this item is unclear. Its shape and dimensions might suggest a diadem worn by a young person, however this would be surprising as there are no known parallels, and in Roman–early Byzantine times diadems were generally considered attributes of the imperial family (Saglio 1892; Mau 1905; Croom 2002:105). The small holes might suggest that the extremities of the band were originally joined together by means of a small rivet. In this case, the diameter would be over 8 cm, which is apparently too large for a bracelet or an anklet.

Gold Earrings (Fig. 17:2–5).— Six gold earrings, consisting of two pairs and two single

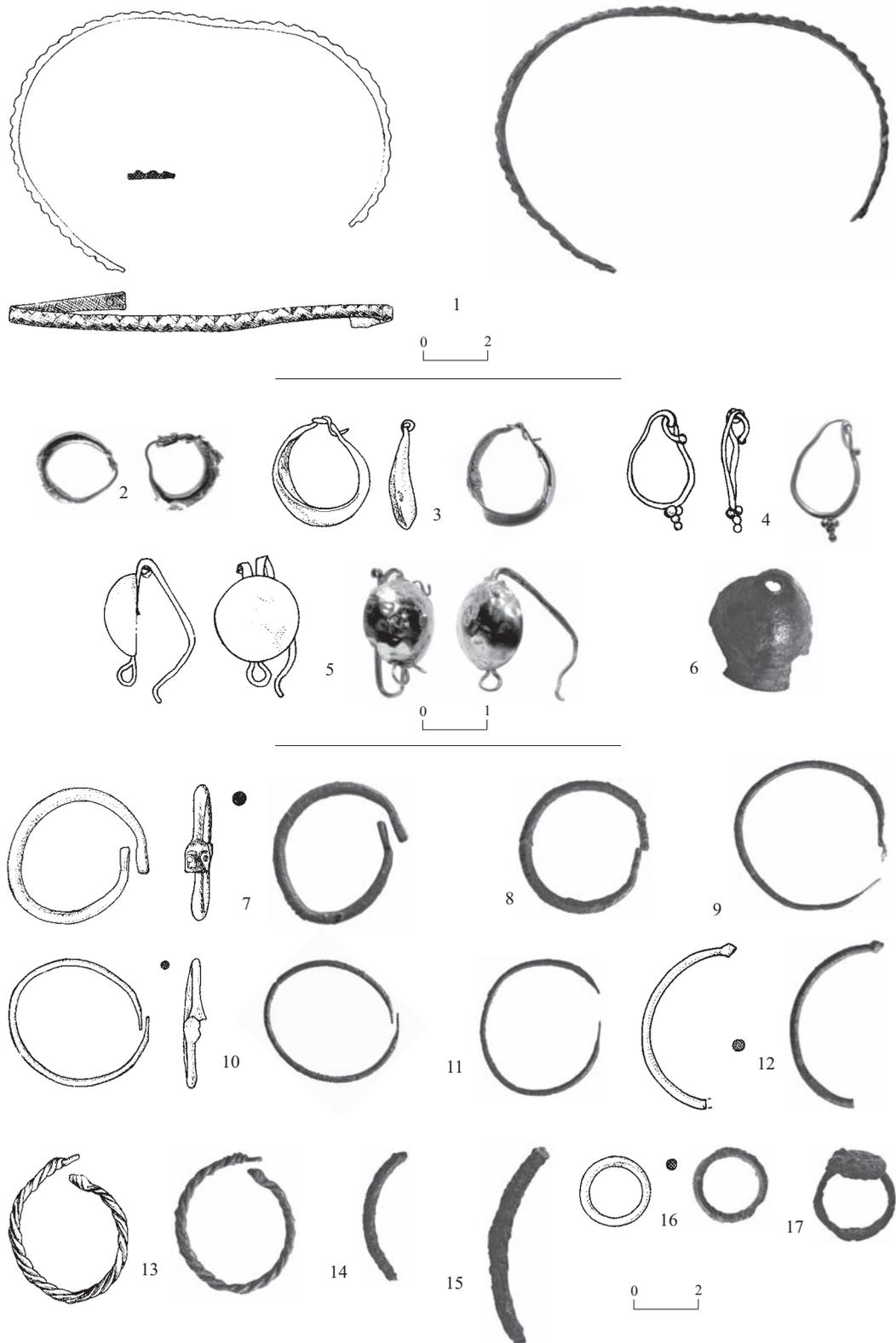


Fig. 17. Jewelry.

◀ Fig. 17

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	44	74-2208	Chamber A, central pit	?	Bronze	L 26, W 0.4, Th 0.25
2	53	74-2217	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Pair of earrings	Gold	D 1.4, round section 0.25
3	55	74-2222	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Earring	Gold	D 1.4–1.7, round section 0.25
4	56	74-2221	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Earring	Gold	D 1.0–1.5, round section 0.1
5	54	74-2216	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Pair of earrings	Gold	L 2, D of convex plate 1.3
6	60	74-2218	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Bell	Bronze	H 1.7, D 1.4
7	18	74-2213	Chamber A, on shelf in front of <i>Kokh</i> 6	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 3.0–3.5, section 0.3
8	17	74-2212	Chamber A, on shelf in front of <i>Kokh</i> 6	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 3.5, section 0.3
9	41	74-2211	Chamber A, central pit	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 4.6, section 2
10	42	74-2209	Chamber A, central pit	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 3.4–3.8, section 0.25
11	43	74-2210	Chamber A, central pit	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 3.8–4.0, section 0.2
12	65	-	<i>Arcosolium</i> 4	Bracelet, broken	Bronze	Int. D 4.5, section 0.3
13	16	74-2214	Chamber A, on shelf in front of <i>Kokh</i> 6	Bracelet	Bronze	Int. D 3, section 0.35
14	20	-	Chamber A	Bracelet, fragment	Iron	Int. D 4, section 0.3
15	36	-	<i>Kokh</i> 1	Bracelet, fragment	Iron	Section 0.5
16	19	74-2215	Chamber A	Ring	Bronze	Int. D 1.6, section 0.3
17	37	74-2228	<i>Kokh</i> 6	Ring	Iron	Int. D 1.8, section 0.2, bezel D 1.8

earrings, were discovered in *Arcosolium* 4. They fall into three types:

1) One pair and one single earring of this type were found (Fig. 17:2, 3). They consist of a tubular hoop (diam. 0.2 cm), with a seam on the inside, the ends tapering into round wires, one end of which is coiled back to form a loop into which the other end is inserted. This is the most frequent type of earring found in the Eastern Mediterranean. For parallels, see Jerusalem: several examples found in rock-cut shaft graves at the site of the Rockefeller

Museum (Baramki 1931a: Pls. 7:5, 7–10; 8:3; 13:1, 6–8; 14:3, 7); in a chamber tomb at the site of the Syrian Orphanage (Baramki 1931b:101, Pl. 38:2, with a bead hanging from the hoop); and in shaft tombs on Nablus Road (Hamilton and Husseini 1935: Pl. 81:2, 4, 11); and Galilee: at el-Baṣṣa (Iliffe 1934b: Pl. 24:5, 9); Yehi'am (Tzaferis 1969:73, Pl. 17:8) in a third-century CE tomb; Ḥanita (Barag 1978: Fig. 18:99, 101, Pl. 7:99–101) with mid-second–late third centuries CE coins; Ḥ. Kenes (Porat 1997:84–85, Fig. 3:3); Ḥ. Sugar (Aviam

and Stern 1997a:98, Fig. 6:3), in Cave 1 dated to the fourth century CE; Ḥorbat Qastra (*Castra* 1999:42, lower left photo); and Iqrit (Vitto, forthcoming[a]) with coins of Macrianus II and Quietus (260–261 CE). Similar earrings are also found in Cyprus (see references in Davidson and Oliver 1984:133–134, Nos. 168–181). *Date:* This type of earrings was common in the third–early fourth centuries CE; their presence in *Arcosolium* 4 suggests that they are contemporaneous with the four coins dating to the last quarter of the third century CE (see Bijovsky, this volume).

2) A single earring of this type was found (Fig. 17:4). It is similar to Type 1 with the addition of a cluster of five granules soldered to the hoop. For parallels, see, e.g., in a late fourth-century CE tomb at el-Baṣṣa (Ilfie 1934b: Pl. 24:8) and at Ḥorbat Qastra (*Castra* 1999:38, upper right photo).

3) One pair of earrings of this type was found (Fig. 17:5). They consist of a tubular hoop with a seam on the inside, the ends tapering into round wires, one end of which was coiled back to form a loop into which the other end is inserted. A circular convex disc with a flat back is soldered onto the hoop. For parallels, see Jerusalem, in the rock-cut shaft grave No. 41, at the site of the Rockefeller Museum (Baramki 1931a: Pl. 8:9) and Ḥorbat Qastra (*Castra* 1999:39, upper right photo).

Small Bronze Bell (Fig. 17:6).— A fragmentary bronze bell found in *Arcosolium* 4 was decorated with two horizontal grooves in its lower part, handle and clapper missing. Small bells, considered apotropaic, are frequently found in burial caves. They were often threaded onto various items of jewelry, e.g., on a child's bracelet in Tomb E 220 at Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:429–430, Fig. 100:22). For further parallels and discussion, see Elqosh (Vitto 2008:123, Fig. 2:9).

Bracelets (Fig. 17:7–15).— Nine bracelets were found in the cave, seven of bronze and two of iron. Six of the bronze bracelets and one iron

bracelet were found in Chamber A; one iron bracelet was found in *Kokh* 1, and one bronze bracelet in *Arcosolium* 4. The seven bronze bracelets are of three types:

1) Five bracelets of this type were found in Chamber A (Fig. 17:7–11). They consist of an open-ended hoop (internal diam. 3.5–4.5 cm), made of a stout wire with a round cross-section, and hammered to form elliptical ends, which hint at snakes' heads. Their small dimensions suggest that they were worn by children. They fall into two subtypes: (1a) Two bracelets (Fig. 17:7, 8) have a rather thick cross-section (0.4 cm) and stylistic snakes' heads deeply engraved on their ends; (1b) The other three (Fig. 17:9–11) have a smaller cross-section (0.2 cm), and no engraving of snakes' heads on the ends. Similar bracelets, in silver and bronze, consisting of open-ended hoops with snake head-shaped ends, were found at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:42–43, Fig. 18:109, silver, with second- and third-century CE coins); in Cave 3 at Kisra (Stern 1997:123, Fig. 12:54, bronze) dated early fourth–mid-fifth century CE; and at Iqrit (Vitto, forthcoming[a], silver) in *Kokh* 3 with a coin of Julia Maesa (226 CE).

2) One broken example of this type of bronze bracelet was found in *Arcosolium* 4 (Fig. 17:12). It consists of an open-ended hoop (internal diam. 4.5 cm) made of a stout bronze wire with a round cross-section (diam. 0.3 cm), constricted before both ends. A similar bracelet was found at Kisra (Stern 1997:122–123, Fig. 12:50) in Cave 2, dated early fourth–mid-fifth centuries CE and at Iqrit (Vitto, forthcoming[a]) in *Kokh* 1, with a coin of Constantius I (c. 295 CE).

3) One example of this type was found in Chamber A in front of *Kokh* 5 (Fig. 17:13). It is made of three stout round wires, spirally wound to form a hoop (interior diam. 3.0–3.5 cm). At one end the wires have been joined and forged into a single wire, which is coiled back to form a loop, and at the other extremity the three wires have also been joined and forged into one wire which is broken but was probably inserted originally into the loop and then coiled

around the opposite end of the hoop. As a result, the hoop could easily slide through the wound wires, allowing for extension of the diameter as the child wearing the bracelet grew. Parallels of this type are found in Jerusalem in a rock-cut shaft tomb at the site of the Rockefeller Museum (Baramki 1931a: Pl. 7:17) and at Sajur (Braun, Dauphin and Hadas 1994: Fig. 5:2). It also existed in silver, e.g., at Iqrit (Vitto, forthcoming[a]) and in gold (Davidson and Oliver 1984:148–149, No. 203, bought by W.F. Petrie in Cairo).

The two iron bracelets (Fig. 17:14, 15) were found in Chamber A and in *Kokh* 1. Although fragmentary, they both seem to consist of plain hoops with a round cross-section. Figure 17:14 has an internal diameter of 4 cm and a cross-section of 0.3 cm, and is of a size suitable for a child. Figure 17:15 has an internal diameter of c. 7 cm and a cross-section of 0.5 cm and was large enough to be worn by an adult. For parallels, see in burial caves at Beit Fajjâr, dated by Husseini (1935:176, Pl. 86:5) to the fourth century CE, 'Ein Yabrud dated by Husseini (1938: Pl. 6:4, 5) to the fourth century CE, and Cabul (Vitto, forthcoming[b]), dated to the second half of the fourth century CE.

Rings (Fig. 17:16, 17).— Two rings were found, one made of bronze, the other of iron. The bronze ring (Fig. 17:16), found in Chamber A, is plain with an internal diameter of 1.6 cm and a round cross-section of 0.3 cm, which would fit a child or a young person.

The iron ring (Fig. 17:17) found in *Kokh* 6 is circular (internal diam. 1.8 cm) with a flat cross-section (0.1 × 0.3 cm) and a circular bezel (diam. 1.8 cm) that bears unidentifiable remains of an engraved design, soldered to the ring. The rather large dimensions of the ring would have fit an adult, probably a male. Contemporaneous rings with decorated bezels made of bronze (usually better preserved than their iron counterparts) depict various amuletic and mythological motifs, such as a flying Cupid and a sea-serpent on a ring at Tarshiḥa (Iliffe 1934a:11, Pl. 8:11) or a roaring lion on a ring at Sajur (Braun, Dauphin and Hadas 1994: Fig. 5:9).

Beads (Fig. 18).— Only four beads, each of a different type, were found in the cave. This small quantity may be due to the fact that they are not ordinary beads, but amphora-shaped, pendant-shaped or made of crystal, and they may have been worn independently rather than as part of a necklace.

Trail-Decorated Amphora Pendant (Fig. 18:1): Found in *Kokh* 1, it is made of opaque glass of uncertain color, appearing black, decorated with a zigzag pattern made of light greenish glass on the body and one trail around the neck. The body is amphora-shaped with a disc-shaped base and two handles from rim to body. Amphora-shaped beads with two handles are quite rare. A similar example was discovered at Ḥorbat Qaṣṣa, Tomb 10 (which also included three pottery lamp-fillers and tall glass jugs similar to those found at Qiryat Ata; Natalia Katsnelson, pers. comm.) and another appears in a catalogue of *Berlin's Antikenmuseum* (Platz-Horster 1976: No. 108). In the catalogue of beads in the Israel Museum, Spaer (2001:170–173, 178, Nos. 339–354, Pl. 28) does not mention any amphora-shaped beads, but lists a few jug-shaped beads with one handle, which she suggests dating to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE. Jug-shaped pendants with one handle are common in Late Roman tombs of the Syro-Palestinian area, e.g., in burial caves in Nazareth (Richmond 1931: Pl. 33:2, 3), Ashqelon (Iliffe 1933: Pl. 48:3), and Jerusalem (Hamilton and Husseini 1935: Pl. LXXXI:12); and at Yeḥi'am (Tzaferis 1969: Pl. XVII:4, 5, with third–mid-fourth centuries coins), in the necropolis of Tyre (Chéhab 1986:168–169, Pl. XXXI, with third to early fourth-centuries CE coins), at Jalame (Berry 1988:229–230, Fig. 8-3:22, with further references) and at Loḥame Ha-Geṭa'ot (Peleg 1991:142–143, Fig. 12:1).

Eisen (1923), who had proposed an identification of the 'Chalice of Antioch'³ with the Holy Grail, also suggested that these jug-shaped beads are Christian amulets representing the so-called 'Vases of Joseph of Arimathea' "filled with the blood and sweat of Jesus" (Eisen 1927:518–521). Eisen's suggestion is

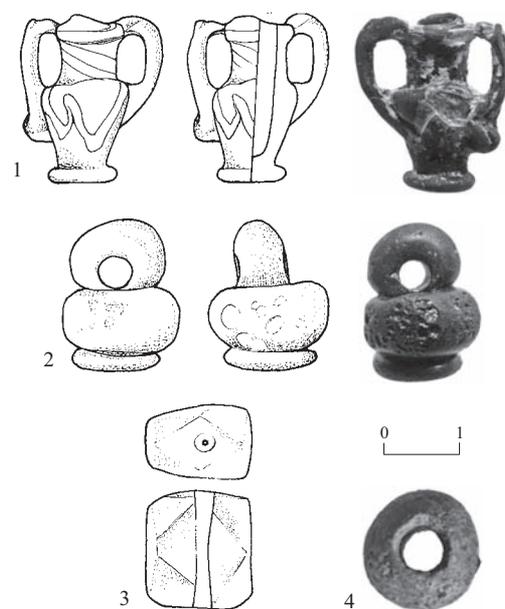


Fig. 18. Beads.

No.	Reg. No.	IAA No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	33	74-2225	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Amphora-shaped bead	Glass, color uncertain appearing opaque black with light greenish trail decoration	H 2.1, max. W 1.8
2	58	74-2220	<i>Arcosolium 4</i>	Bead	Glass, color unclear appearing opaque black with light blue and light green crumbs	H 2, D 1.6
3	57	74-2219	<i>Arcosolium 4</i>	Bead	Crystal	H 1.5, W 1.4, Th 1
4	38	74-2224	<i>Kokh 6</i>	Bead	Glass, light greenish	H 1.1 D 1.4, hole D 0.5

often mentioned in subsequent literature on the subject, usually with great reservations. Berry (1988:230) considers the connection between these miniature glass vessels and the so-called Vases of Joseph of Arimathea dubious, but believes that their use as amulets is plausible. Spaer (2001:171) thinks that some of the jug-shaped beads could be Christian symbols, but she adds that beads in the shape of vessels were popular motifs long before the advent of Christianity. Stern (2001:361–362, 376–377) suggests that their shape “may have been meant to evoke a specific contents, for example holy

water from one of the many pilgrim sites” and that they “may have been sold as souvenirs or amulets.” While most of these beads came to light in the southern Levant where they were apparently produced, several examples have been found in Egypt and Europe, chiefly in Italy, but also in the Balkan countries, France, Portugal, Germany and England, where they may have been brought by pilgrims (Stern 1977; 2001:376). There is, however, a simple reason why these third–fourth centuries CE jug-shaped beads cannot in any way be identified with the so-called Vases of Joseph of Arimathea. The

earliest references to the legend connecting Joseph of Arimathea with the Holy Grail date to the end of the twelfth century (Robert de Boron, *Joseph d'Armatheie*, c. 1190) even though the name of Joseph of Arimathea already appears in the Gospels. As for the amphora-shaped beads, Eisen suggested an explanation which is somehow more plausible in terms of chronology than the one he proposed for the jug-shaped beads. These amphorae would symbolize, according to Eisen (1927:519), the jars of Cana and the water-to-wine miracle, a miracle which is already mentioned in the fourth-century CE *Onomasticon* of Eusebius. In the case of Qiryat Ata's burial cave, there is no evidence which might suggest that some of the deceased had adhered to Christianity, unless the absence of coins later than the late third century are construed as a clue to a change of religion (see Conclusion).

Crumb-Decorated Pendant (Fig. 18:2): Found in *Arcosolium* 4, it is made of opaque black glass with the crumbs on the central body made of light blue and light green glass. It has a globular body, a disc-shaped base and a large pierced loop on top. For parallels, see Spaer (2001:171, 177, No. 336, Pl. 27), who calls them "jar pendants" and dates them to the late third–fourth centuries CE. Similar beads were discovered, e.g., in the necropolis of Tyre (Chéhab 1986:173, Pl. XXXVII:1, 3, 4) with fourth-century CE coins, in a third–fourth century CE burial cave at Moza 'Illit (Gudovitch 1996:67*–68*, Fig. 3:5) and in a burial cave at Elqosh (Vitto 2008:123, Fig. 2:11, with coins dating to the first half of the fourth century CE).

Crystal Bead (Fig. 18:3): Found in *Kokh* 6, it is of the faceted 'dodecahedron' shape (Beck 1928:17, Type XIX.A.3).

Glass Bead (Fig. 18:4): Found in *Arcosolium* 4, it is spherical, made of light greenish glass with a circular section (Beck 1928: Type I.C.1.a).

Coins

Gabriela Bijovsky

Four coins were discovered during the excavation in *Arcosolium* 4. All the coins are

antoniniani, dated to the last quarter of the third century CE. No figures are presented here since the coins were very badly preserved.

1. Reg. No. 30, IAA 21799.

Aurelian (270–275 CE).

Obv.:]AVR[Bust r., radiate, cuirassed and draped.

Rev.: [---] Two figures stg.

Æ, ↑, *antoninianus*, 2.06 g, 21 mm, broken.

Cf. *RIC* 5/1:309, No. 392.

2. Reg. No. 29, IAA 11000.

Carinus, 282–283 CE, Antioch?

Obv.: [IMP MAVR] CARINVS [NOB C] Bust r., radiate, cuirassed and draped.

Rev.: [VIRTVS AVGG] Jupiter presenting Victory on globe to prince. Mintmark illegible.

Æ, ↓, *antoninianus*, 2.06 g, 21 mm.

Cf. *RIC* 5/1:164, No. 206.

3. Reg. No. 32, IAA 10999.

End of third century CE.

Obv.: [---] Bust r., radiate, cuirassed and draped.

Rev.: [RESTITVT OR]BIS Female presenting wreath to emperor. Mintmark illegible.

Æ, ↓, *antoninianus*, 1.76 g, 23 mm.

Cf. *RIC* 5/2:120, No. 925.

4. Reg. No. 31, IAA 10998.

End of third century CE.

Obv.: [---] Bust r., radiate, cuirassed and draped.

Rev.:]L[---]E[Figure stg. Mintmark illegible.

Æ, ↓, *antoninianus*, 1.94 g, 20 mm, very worn.

CONCLUSIONS

The Finds

Due to partial looting and disturbance at the time of discovery, it is not possible to obtain a complete picture of the contents of the cave and of the original whereabouts of all the artifacts discovered. It appears, however, that the lamps discovered in Chamber A, near the entrance to the cave, were *in situ*. The jars found in the

central pit of Chamber A—an intact jar (Fig. 8:1) found upside down in the eastern corner of the pit, and two additional jars discovered nearby—were also apparently where they had been left in antiquity. The small hole drilled into the wall of the jars and the dark color on the interior suggest that they served as wine jars, either in the burial cave itself or in previous use (see discussion above). The cooking pots discovered in Chamber A on the shelves in front of *Kokhim* 2 and 6 were probably also *in situ*. They all have traces of soot on the exterior attesting to their having been used, and a lime deposit on the interior indicating that they had contained water over a long period.

The juglet (Fig. 7:2) found in the central pit of Chamber A probably served to draw liquid contained in the jars or in the cooking-pots found nearby. As to the other juglet (Fig. 7:3), if it indeed served as a lamp-filler, it may well have been discovered where the mourners left it, i.e., near the oil lamps. The four glass ewers and one glass double-tube kohl container found in *Kokh* 3 were most likely *in situ*. The glass kohl container on a pushed-in base was found in Chamber A. It probably originated in one of the burial places and was thrown in there together with a few jewelry items when the tomb was disturbed. *Arcosolium* 4 was the least disturbed of all the burial places though evidence of limited looting and disturbance was visible in its upper part. The earth filling the trough of the *arcosolium*, which was entirely sifted, contained bones of several skeletons, in part articulated, as well as four coins, four pairs of earrings, a bronze bracelet, beads, a bronze rod and two bone pins. They attest to at least four females, assuming one pair of earrings and one coin per individual. The absence of a study of the osteological material and the disturbed state of the cave prevent us from inferring the total number of individuals buried in the cave.

The Date

This type of chamber-tomb with single *kokhim* in the side walls (both with a flat floor and with a trough hewn into the floor of the *kokh*) and

an *arcosolium* in the back wall does not appear in the Galilee before the late second–third centuries CE.

The cave was used for burial from the late third to the late fourth centuries CE. This is shown by the repertoire of glass vessels, characterized by the conspicuous absence of glass bowls, beakers and candlestick bottles and the presence of kohl containers and tall jugs, the types of lamps, pottery vessels, jewelry items and the coins. The first interments apparently took place in the last quarter of the third century CE in some of the *kokhim* (such as *Kokh* 2, which contained the nozzle of a late third-century CE lamp) and in the trough of *Arcosolium* 4, as attested by coins of Aurelian 270–275 CE and Carinus 282–283 CE and the late third-century CE glass kohl container on a pushed-in base (Fig. 11:1). Burial continued throughout the fourth century CE as suggested by the late fourth-century CE glass jugs found in *Kokh* 3 and the numerous lamps dating to the second half of the fourth century CE discovered in Chamber A near the entrance. The cave contained six pottery coffins: in *Kokhim* 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 and on the northwestern shelf of Chamber A. It is clear that the cave was not originally hewn with the intention of placing pottery coffins inside since these are longer than the *kokhim* and protrude onto the shelves. Coffins are thus a later addition, which occurred in the course of the fourth century CE. This is confirmed by the fact that in *Kokhim* 2 and 7, the coffins were laid on top of the troughs which contained earlier burials, e.g., a late third–early fourth century CE lamp nozzle (Fig. 9:2) in the trough of *Kokh* 2. The cave seems to have already been disturbed in antiquity since the coffins were found almost entirely emptied of their contents and filled with earth.

The Religion of the Deceased

The discovery of jewelry items and of coins in the cave rules out, most likely, the possibility that the deceased were Jewish. The four coins discovered in the cave were all in *Arcosolium* 4. This indicates that the individuals buried in the

arcosolium shared the pagan belief of paying the ferryman Charon an obol for the crossing of the River Styx to the netherworld (Rahmani 1993). Although we cannot exclude that the absence of coins in the rest of the cave and in the pottery coffins is due to looting, it is possible that only those buried in the *arcosolium* shared the belief in Charon's obol. No Christian symbol was discovered in the cave that might suggest that the deceased had converted to Christianity. It may be assumed that some time during the Byzantine period, the local population did convert to Christianity, as did the inhabitants of many pagan villages of the Galilee. Evidence that a Christian population inhabited the town in the sixth century CE is shown by the church located c. 350 m southwest of the burial cave (Vitto 1973; this volume).

Archaeological Context

What do we know of the history of the site and its name in Late Roman times? Much ink has been spilled regarding the location of a place fortified in 66 CE by Josephus (*Life* 188; *Jewish War* 2:573), which is written Capharatha (Καφαραθα), Capharath (Καφαραθ) or Caphareccho (Καφαρεκχ) depending on the manuscript. Avi-Yonah (1953) and Har-El (1972) suggested reading Apharatha (Αφαραθα); Avi-Yonah placed it at Kh. eṭ-Ṭayyiba, on the road from Shefar'am to Sepphoris, and Har-El—at Kokhav Ha-Yarden. Bar-Kochba (1974) and Damati (1986) both accepted the reading Caphareccho, placing it, respectively, near Acco-Ptolemais or Ḥuqoq. Barag (1981), however, argued that the three most trustworthy manuscripts of Josephus (P, R and A) have preserved the version Capharath/Capharatha, which should be identified with Kefar Ata, present-day Qiryat Ata (see also Aviam 1983:39–40; Tsafir, Di Segni and Green 1994:98).

No other burial cave has yet been discovered in the close vicinity of the cave excavated on Remez Street. However, several rock-cut chamber-tombs attributed to the Late Roman period have been found in the area of

present-day Qiryat Ata. A few burial caves with *kokhim* hewn into their walls, some of them containing pottery coffins, were discovered at Ḥ. Sirṭa/Kh. esh-Sharta (map ref. NIG 21225–30/7458–62), c. 1.5 km east of Remez Street (Ovadia 1965a; 1965b; 1967; Yankelevitch 1993). In the southern part of modern Qiryat Ata, a few burial caves were found in the area of the ATA textile factory. They include a 2.6 × 3.0 m cave with eight *kokhim* excavated in July 1945 at map ref. NIG 2101/7449, which yielded nine pottery coffins, coins from the third century CE, pottery cooking pots, glass vessels and jewelry items including gold earrings (unpublished report by E. Moller; File Kufrita/Kafr Ata, British Mandate Archives, Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem; Golani 2003:4–5, 7, n. 14). In 1988, a cave surrounded by *arcosolia* with burial troughs hewn into their floors was found empty at map ref. NIG 2102/7448 (Siegelmann 1988). In 2000, a burial cave consisting of three *arcosolia* with burial troughs was excavated on Shalom Salah Street (map ref. NIG 219845/745128), yielding pottery and glass vessels dating to the Late Roman period (Rutgaizer 2000). They attest to the existence of one (or several) settlement(s) in the Late Roman period, in the area of Qiryat Ata. At Ḥ. Sirṭa/Kh. esh-Sharta, in addition to the burial caves, pottery dating to the Iron Age, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods was discovered (Ovadia 1965a; Olami and Gal 2003:31*, 33*, Nos. 47, 54; Barda and Haiman 2000:15*). Other than a large Early Bronze Age site located at map ref. NIG 21035–53/74489–508 (Golani 2003 with further references therein), no remains earlier than the Byzantine period have yet been discovered in the center of Qiryat Ata (unpublished reports dated 18.7.1941, 21.3.1954, IAA Archives, Jerusalem; Vitto 1973; this volume; Siegelmann 1988; Torgë 1999; Badhi 2000; Olami and Gal 2003:33*, No. 53). Further excavations will be necessary to uncover the location of the Late Roman settlement to which the burial caves belonged.

NOTES

¹ In June–July 1974, a five-day excavation (Permit No. A-477) was conducted on the site by the author on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums (now the Israel Antiquities Authority) with the help of three workers provided by the Municipality of Qiryat Ata. Some disturbance occurred in the cave soon after its discovery by pupils of the nearby school who removed and broke some of the pottery coffins. However, most if not all the artifacts taken by the children were subsequently returned to Regional Inspector of Antiquities Yehuda Ben-Yosef. The plan and sections of the burial cave were drawn by the author and prepared for publication by Natalia Zak. Field photographs were taken by Yehuda Lazar. Yehuda Ben-Yosef assisted in the organization of the dig. The coins and metal finds

were cleaned by Nena Janeš. The finds were drawn by Boris Zieloni and photographed by Tsila Sagiv. Carmen Hersch prepared the plates for publication. Gabriela Bijovsky wrote the coin section. Yael Gorin-Rosen and Natalya Katsnelson gave advice on some of the glass vessels. To all the above the author wishes to express her gratitude.

² Regrettably, no report was received on the osteological material, which was reburied shortly after the excavation.

³ The so-called ‘Antioch Chalice’ is currently thought to more closely resemble a standing lamp than a chalice and to date to the sixth century CE (see Mango 1986:28–35, 183–187 for a summary of the controversy surrounding this object).

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